

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/107 W

-----117859 011940Z /40

R 011708Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5048
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS US PEPR

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS STRESSES NEGOTIATION DIFFICULTIES;
- CALLS ON U.S. TO ACT

SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH LOCAL DAILIES FEBRUARY 1 CONTINUE TO ESCHEW EMOTIONAL APPROACH TO ME NEGOTIATIONS, TREATMENT OF PREVIOUS DAY'S SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE, OPENING OF MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS, AND ATHERTON-KAMEL DISCUSSIONS UNDERLINES DISTANCE YET TO TRAVEL AND FINDS VIRTUALLY NO SILVER LININGS, DESPITE IMMINENT SADAT DEPARTURE FOR U.S. VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE. LEAD STORY IS SADAT COMMENTS TO JOURNALISTS AFTER MEETING WITH AMERICAN JEWISH-CHRISTIAN GROUP LED BY RABBI EHRENKRANZ. AHRAM BANNERS "SADAT: EGYPTIAN PEOPLE EXPECT CLEAR STAND FROM AMERICA TO PREPARE WAY FOR ROAD TO PEACE." BLUNTER GUMHURI YA INTONES: "MY PEOPLE ARE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE AMERICA AND TO ASK AMERICA FOR DECISIVE POSITION". SADAT DOUBTED THAT "MAJOR STATEMENTS" WOULD EMERGE FROM HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, NOTING THAT U.S. WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE TO TALK TO OTHER PARTIES, INCLUDING ISRAEL, BEFORE DETERMINING NEXT STEP. SADAT STRESSED THAT HE AND EGYPTIAN PEOPLE APPRECIATE WHAT AMERICA HAS DONE FOR NEGOTIATING PROCESS, BUT WHAT NEEDED NOW IS AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMULA, SIMILAR TO THAT PRODUCED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING SINAI I NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT NOTED THAT THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATION OVER RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION, OPINED THAT COMING NEGOTIATING STAGE WOULD BE "DIFFICULT AND COMPLICATED", AND STATED THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED SIX-POINT PROPOSAL DEALING WITH ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS.

2. MILITARY COMMITTEE. MEDIA TREATMENT OF ARRIVAL OF ISRAELI DELEGATION AND REOPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS TREATED WITH RESTRAINT. AHRAM SETS TONE, QUOTING WEIZMAN: "THE ROAD IS DIFFICULT AND WE WILL TRY TO MAKE PROGRESS." AHRAM REPORTS WEIZMAN COMMENT UPON ARRIVAL THAT QUESTION OF SINAI SETTLEMENTS WILL BE FIRST ITEM PLACED ON NEGOTIATING TABLE, WHILE AKHBAR BELIEVES THAT MILITARY TIMETABLE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ALSO HIGH PRIORITY ITEM.

3. ATHERTON-KAMEL TALKS. ALTHOUGH ATHERTON MEETING WITH FONMIN RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE ON TV, DISCUSSIONS DOWNPLAYED IN MORNING PRESS AND EMPHASIS PLACED ON KAMEL'S INSISTENCE, IN POST-MEETING COMMENTS TO PRESS, ON TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

DAILIES QUOTE KAMEL THAT "WE APPRECIATE U.S. KEENNESS AND CONTINUED EFFORTS TOWARD REACHING ALL-OUT PEACE", BUT HIS COMMENT THAT "THERE SEVERAL POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT CONCERNING DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" RECEIVES MORE PROMINENT COVERAGE IN MOST ARTICLES. DESPITE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES OVER DRAFT, KAMEL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TALKS WOULD CONTINUE AND THAT U.S. WOULD ASSIST. ARTICLES NOTE MATTER-OF-FACTLY THAT KAMEL-ATHERTON TALKS TO CONTINUE ON FEBRUARY 1.

4. MUBARAK FINALLY RETURNS. PRESS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO VP MUBARAK'S ARAB-IRANIAN TRAVELOGUE, REPORTING THAT MUBARAK BRINGING BACK MESSAGES "OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE" FROM HEADS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE, WHILE AKHBAR HEADLINE GUSHES ABOUT "SURPRISE MEETING" WITH PRINCE FAHD IN RIYADH, WHILE MUBARAK EN ROUTE FROM KUWAIT TO JWZRDAN.

5. EDITORIALS. AHAM VIEWS RECONVENED MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS AS KEY TEST OF WHETHER ISRAEL HAS MODIFIED EARLIER REFUSAL TO SACRIFICE TERRITORIES FOR SECURE PEACE. MILITARY TALKS WILL "CROSS T'S AND DOT I'S". GUMHURIYYA CONDEMNS BEGIN'S COMMENTS TO U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT THAT ISRAEL WOULD INSIST ON DEMILITARIZATION OF MOST OF SINAI AND COMMENTS THAT, WITH SETTLEMENTS IMBROGLIO EASING, ISRAEL NOW RAISING ISSUE OF DEMILITARIZED ZONES AS YET ANOTHER DELAYING TACTIC. KAMEL ZUHAYRI, IN GUMHURIYYA, NOTES RECENT CIA REPORT THAT ISRAEL HAS ATOMIC BOMB AND CALLS ON ALL ARAB LEADERS TO "PUT ASIDE THEIR MICROPHONES" TO CONFRONT SENSIBLY POSSIBILITIES OF PEACE AND WAR. NUCLEAR ISSUE, IN ZUHAYRI OPINION, MUST NOW BE RAISED WITH U.S. IHSAN BAKR OF AHAM CALLS FOR AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO RESTORATION OF ME PEACE IN COLUMN ENTITLED "WHAT WILL CARTER SAY?" "ALL WE WOULD ASK PRESIDENT CARTER TO DO NOW IS TO OPEN THE PALESTINE FILE AND THE FILE OF AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE AREA AND THEN TAKE THE DECISIVE ACTION EXPECTED OF HIM."

6. COMMENT. EMZIEARLY, LOCAL MEDIA UNDER GOE INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO RAISE PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS DURING SADAT TRIP TO U.S. IN ANY CASE, IT DIFFICULT FOR LOCAL JOURNALISTS TO DEVELOP MUCH ENTHUSIASM FOR RECONVENED MILITARY

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS OR ATHERTON-KAMEL TALKS, WHICH VIEWED
LOCALLY AS ESSENTIALLY SIDE-SHOWS WHICH CAN MAKE LITTLE
MEANINGFUL PROGRESS UNTIL SADAT HAS TESTED AMERICAN
WATERS. PERSISTENT GOE FEARS THAT SADAT MAY ACHIEVE
LITTLE DURING U.S. TALKS VISIBLE IN PROMINENT COVERAGE
SADAT EXHORTATION TO VISITING EHRENKRANZ DELEGATION THAT
U.S. MUST ADOPT "FIRM POSITION" (E.G. COME OUT AGAINST
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND OCCUPATION OF TERRITORIES BY
FORCE, NOT TO MENTION SUPPORT FOR LIMITED PALESTINIAN
"SHARE" IN DETERMINATION OF FATE) IF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
TO MAKE PROGRESS. SADAT EMPHASIS ON KISSINGER "FORMULA"
DURING SINAI I TALKS ESSENTIALLY A REPHRASING OF PAST
CALLS FOR U.S. "VISUALIZATION" OF ME SETTLEMENT, AGAIN
PITTING U.S. AGAINST ISRAEL OVER SETTLEMENTS ISSUE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE TALKS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO03733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780048-0772
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802108/aaaadndi.tel
Line Count: 245
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 267708ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3446679
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAIRO PRESS STRESSES NEGOTIATION DIFFICULTIES; - CALLS ON U.S. TO ACT SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH LOCAL DAILIES FEBRUARY 1 CONTIN
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, SOPN, EG, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/267708ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014